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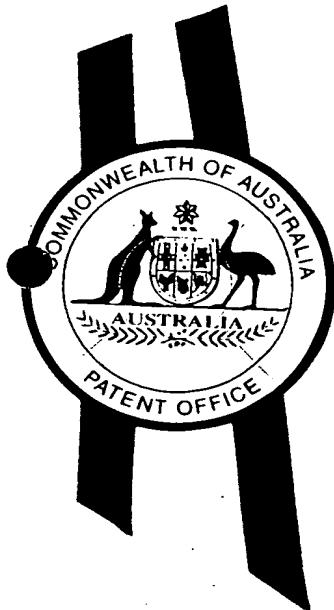
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I, KIM MARSHALL, MANAGER EXAMINATION SUPPORT AND SALES,
hereby certify that the annexed is a true copy of the Provisional specification in
connection with Application No. PP 7424 for a patent by HANDLETEC PTY LTD
filed on 1 December 1998.

PRIORITY DOCUMENT

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WITNESS my hand this Eleventh
day of May 1999

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AUSTRALIA

Patents Act 1990

HANDLETEC PTY LTD

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION

Invention Title:

Bag handle and method of attachment

The invention is described in the following statement:

The present invention relates to means for attaching a handle to a bag, and to a method of attaching a handle to a bag, in particular, but not only, to shopping bags with flexible cord handles. This invention is a further development on the inventions of co-pending Australian provisional patent 5 applications PP3176 and PP4605, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Throughout this specification, unless the context requires otherwise, the word "comprise", or variations such as "comprises" or "comprising", will be understood to imply the inclusion of a stated element, integer or step, or 10 group of elements, integers or steps, but not the exclusion of any other element, integer or step, or group of elements, integers or steps.

Summary of the invention

The present invention provides a method and means for attaching flexible cord handles to bags or other receptacles which offers a useful 15 alternative to known arrangements.

In one form the present invention provides a method for attaching a flexible cord handle to a bag including the steps of:

20 forming at least one aperture through a bag wall;
passing an end of a cord having an aglet thereon through said at least one aperture, said aglet comprising detent or barb means biased outwardly thereof which are movable inwardly as the aglet is passed through the aperture and which detent or barb means return to a position outwardly of the aglet to provide a stop preventing removal of the aglet from the aperture in the reverse direction to its passing through the aperture.

25 In a second aspect the present invention provides an aglet for fixing a cord handle to an aperture in a bag wall, said aglet including a longitudinal body part formed with outwardly biased barbs of detent means adapted to retract inwardly as the body part is moved through an aperture during which the barb or detent means contact the perimeter of the aperture.

30 In a third aspect, the present invention provides a method for attaching a flexible cord handle to a bag including the steps of:

35 forming at least one aperture through a bag wall;
passing an end of a cord having an aglet thereon, through said at least one aperture, said aglet comprising detent or barb means biased outwardly thereof;

providing at least one obstruction member with at least one aglet receiving cavity therein adapted to receive the aglet of at least one cord;
5 inserting the aglet into an aglet receiving member so that the detent or barb means are positioned to retain the obstruction member against removal from the aglet.

Preferably, an aglet of the present invention includes an integrally formed stopping surface spaced from the barb or detent means to abut the bag wall at the opposite side of the aperture to that of the barb or detent means when in situ.

10 The size of the aperture formed through the bag wall is preferably only marginally larger than the largest transverse cross-sectional dimension of the aglet.

15 The obstruction member provided in accordance with the third aspect method may be of many different forms. For example, the cord receiving cavity within the obstruction member may pass entirely through the obstruction member. In such embodiments, the aglet may be positioned some distance away from the end of the cord, and the cord may be passed through the obstruction member until the aglet is located at least partially within the obstruction member. Such an embodiment would provide a 20 length of cord protruding from the obstruction member which may be aesthetically desirable or serve some further useful function.

In other embodiments the obstruction member may provide advertising, for example a company logo printed on the exposed side of the member, or the member may be shaped for the purposes of advertising.

25 **Brief Description of the Drawings**

An embodiment of the invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig 1 is a diagrammatic part cross-sectional view of first embodiment of the present invention in situ;

30 Fig 2 is a diagrammatic part cross-sectional view of a second embodiment of the present invention in situ; and

Fig 3 is an isometric view of a half aglet in accord with a further embodiment.

35 In each of Figs 1 and 2 a section through an aperture 10 in a side wall 11 of a bag 12 is fitted with an aglet 13.

In Fig 1 aglet 13 comprises flexibly biased barbs 14 which retract as aglet 13 is pushed through aperture 10 and spring back to their retaining position as shown when they have passed through aperture 10.

The embodiment of Fig 2 incorporates an additional retaining washer 5 15 interposed between barbs 14 and side wall 11.

The bag handle sections as shown in Figs 1 and 2 include a flexible cord portion to which aglet 13 is affixed.

In an embodiment, each aglet is formed by two halves divided longitudinally as shown by the half aglet 20 of Fig 3. Each half aglet 20 is to 10 be joined to a like half about a cord end. Each half piece 20 preferably includes inwardly projecting gripping barbs or teeth 21 which pass into the cord and hold the cord to the aglet when the two halves 20 are joined together by adhesive or microwave welding or similar.

It will be appreciated by persons skilled in the art that numerous 15 variations and/or modifications may be made to the invention as shown in the specific embodiments without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention as broadly described. The present embodiments are, therefore, to be considered in all respects as illustrative and not restrictive.

Dated this first day of December 1998

HANDLETEC PTY LTD

Patent Attorneys for the Applicant:

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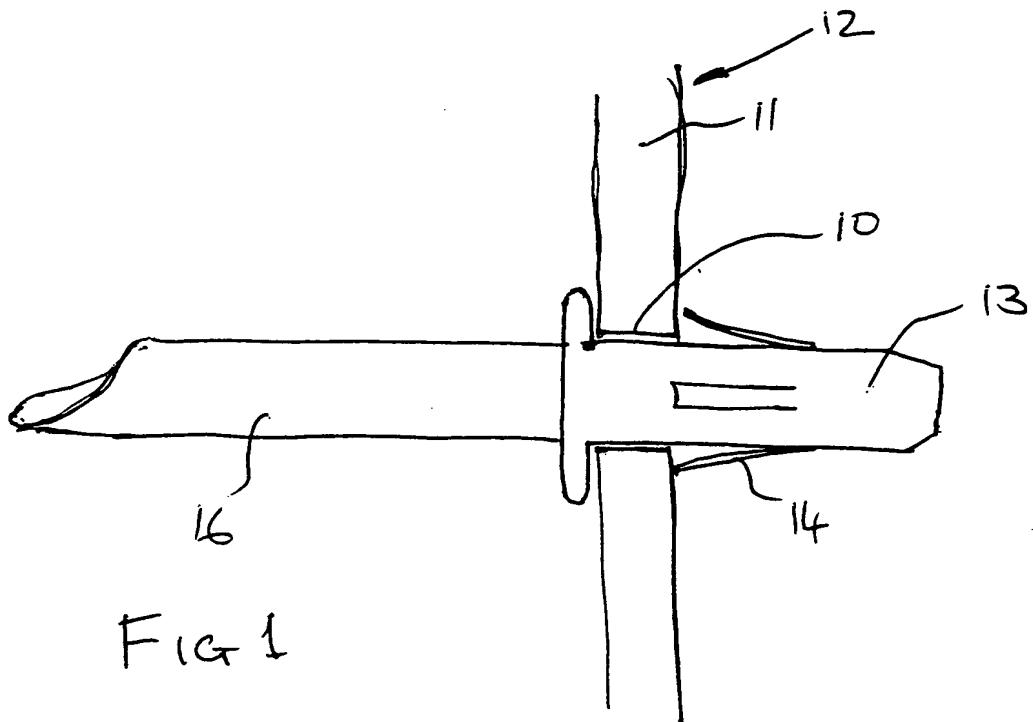


Fig. 1

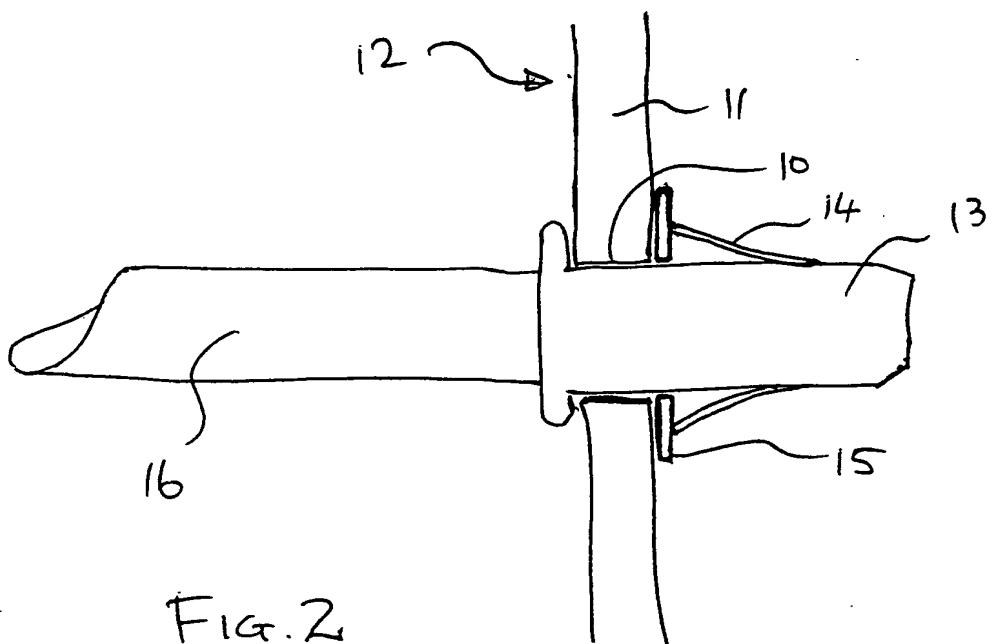


Fig. 2

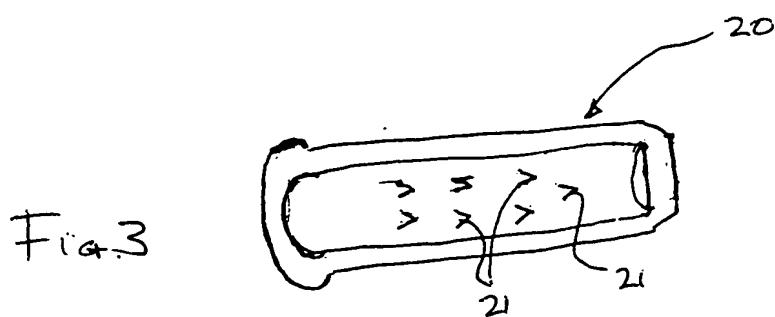


Fig. 3